54. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the constricted passage has a fixed cross section.

55. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the pipette tip of the first part and the constricted passage of the second part are designed such that, as the pipette tip passes through the constricted passage, walls defining the pipette tip collapse inwardly and form a liquid seal such that liquid in the pipette tip of the first part is forced upward into the sample cup of the first part.

56. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the pipette tip of the first part and the constricted passage of the second part are designed such that, as the pipette tip passes through the constricted passage, walls defining the pipette tip collapse inwardly and form a moving liquid seal such that the moving liquid seal progresses up the pipette tip as the pipette tip passes through the constricted passage.

57. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the pipette tip of the first part and the constricted passage of the second part are designed such that, as the pipette tip passes through the constricted passage, walls defining the pipette tip collapse inwardly and form a moving liquid seal such that the moving liquid seal progresses up the pipette tip as the pipette tip passes through the constricted passage, wherein the moving liquid seal forces liquid in the pipette tip upward into the sample cup.

58. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 53 wherein the pipette tip of the first part and the constricted passage of the

second part are designed such that, as the pipette tip passes through the constricted passage, walls defining the pipette tip collapse inwardly and form a liquid seal such that liquid in the pipette tip of the first part is forced upward into the sample cup of the first part.

59. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 53 wherein the pipette tip of the first part and the constricted passage of the second part are designed such that, as the pipette tip passes through the constricted passage, walls defining the pipette tip collapse inwardly and form a moving liquid seal such that the moving liquid seal progresses up the pipette tip as the pipette tip passes through the constricted passage.

60. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 53 wherein the pipette tip of the first part and the constricted passage of the second part are designed such that, as the pipette tip passes through the constricted passage, walls defining the pipette tip collapse inwardly and form a moving liquid seal such that the moving liquid seal progresses up the pipette tip as the pipette tip passes through the constricted passage, wherein the moving liquid seal forces liquid in the pipette tip upward into the sample cup.

61. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 54 wherein the pipette tip of the first part and the constricted passage of the second part are designed such that, as the pipette tip passes through the constricted passage, walls defining the pipette tip collapse inwardly and form a liquid seal such that liquid in the pipette tip of the first part is forced upward into the sample cup of the first part.